

## **Policy Title:** Infectious Disease Protocol for Medical Students

**Policy Number** (relate to LCME Element as applicable): UCF COM Policy 12.8.2

**Applies to:** All medical students at the University of Central Florida College of Medicine (UCF COM).

**Date:** 6/20/2025

### **1.0 Purpose:**

This policy relates to LCME Element 12.8 which states that: “medical school has policies in place that effectively address medical student exposure to infectious and environmental hazards.”

### **2.0 Policy Statement:**

When a Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Hepatitis B Virus (HBV), or Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) infected student comes to the attention of the University of Central Florida College of Medicine (UCF COM), confidentiality of the individual, as well as the individual’s welfare and that of the university community must be respected. Infectious diseases will be handled appropriately and reported according to State requirements.

As stated within the CDC Recommendations, Chronic HBV infection in itself should not preclude the practice or study of medicine. Standard Precautions should be adhered to rigorously in all health-care settings for the protection of both patient and provider.

Prior to matriculation, all incoming UCF COM students are required to provide proof of Hepatitis B vaccination and a current HBSAb titer. Students who are HBV positive may disclose their status at that time. There is no requirement to disclose any other bloodborne pathogen positivity, but the student may do so voluntarily.

At matriculation orientation, all students receive verbal and written protocols and procedures for care and treatment, should exposure occur. Should an exposure occur during the enrollment period at UCF COM, students should immediately report exposure to any potentially infectious material (blood, open wounds, etc.) to their clinical instructor or appropriate agency. If exposure results in contraction of disease or disability, the student will be allowed to continue in the program.

The UCF COM adheres to the most updated guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on the management of healthcare professionals with infectious diseases. For more information, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/healthcare/index.html>.

### **3.0 Definitions:**

CDC classification of exposure-prone patient care procedures is defined into Category I and Category II. For purposes of this policy, we will be focusing on the Category I designation.

Category I is classified by procedures known or likely to pose an increased risk of percutaneous injury to a health-care provider that have resulted in provider-to-patient transmission of hepatitis B virus (HBV).

Category II is classified as all other invasive and noninvasive procedures not included in Category I as they pose low or no risk for percutaneous injury to a health-care provider or, if a percutaneous injury occurs it usually does not pose a risk for provider-to-patient blood exposure.

#### **4.0 Responsibilities:**

Monitored by UCF COM Office of Student Affairs

#### **5.0 Monitoring Procedures:**

##### **Disclosure of Status**

A student cannot be compelled to disclose bloodborne pathogen infection status. Infection with bloodborne pathogens other than Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Hepatitis B Virus (HBV), or Hepatitis C Virus (HCV), will not be addressed in this procedure. When the student self-discloses their HBV status to UCF COM, the following measures will be implemented as per the most recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidelines (<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/healthcare/index.html>)

##### **M-1 and M-2**

Per CDC guidelines for Expert Review Panels, HBV infection in health-care providers and students who do not perform invasive exposure-prone procedures should be managed as a personal health issue and does not require special panel oversight. For most chronically infected HBV-infected students who conform to current standards for infection control, HBV status alone does not require any curtailing of their practices or supervised learning experiences. CDC guidelines will also be followed for both Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Hepatitis C Virus (HCV).

##### **M-3 and M-4**

Per the CDC guidelines, Expert Panel Oversight is recommended for particular surgeons and others who perform exposure-prone procedures as designated by Category 1 (please see section 3.0). For most chronically infected HBV-infected students who conform to current standards for infection control, HBV status alone does not require any curtailing of their practices or supervised learning experiences. According to CDC guidelines, Category I procedures do not include the procedures that medical students would be performing or assisting.

In the rare event that a medical student is expected to be involved in a Category 1 procedure, CDC guidelines call for Expert Panel oversight. Per CDC guidelines, the members of the Expert Panel may be selected from, but should not necessarily be limited to, the following:

- Individual with expertise in the medical specialty involved
- Infectious disease and hospital epidemiology specialists
- Liver disease specialists (gastroenterologists)
- The infected student's physicians
- Ethicists
- Human resource professionals
- Hospital or school administrators (e.g., SASS Office)
- Legal counsel

The Expert Panel will adhere to current CDC guidelines for documenting HBV viral load prior to the student engaging in a Category 1 procedure.

##### **Confidentiality of the Infected Student**

The confidentiality of the infected student should be respected. Certain expert review panels might elect to consider cases without knowledge of the name of the infected student. However, awareness of the infected student's identity might be unavoidable. In such cases, respect for the confidentiality of the person under review should be accorded as it is for any other patient.

#### **6.0 Related Policies:**

UCF COM Policy: 12.8.1 Infectious and Environmental Hazards Student Incident

**7.0 Key Search Words:**

|                 |                             |                                    |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Infection       | Expert Panel                | Medical Student                    |
| Student Affairs | Centers for Disease Control | Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) |
| Hepatitis B     | Hepatitis C                 |                                    |

**8.0 Revision History:**

| Version | Date Approved     | Modifications                          |
|---------|-------------------|--|
| V1      | 2009              | Original                               |
| V2      | 6/30/2017 by CCom | Minor edits                            |
| V3      | 2/21/2025 by CCom | Minor edits                            |
| V4      | 6/20/2025 by CCom | Update to reflect current CDC guidance |

**9.0 References:**

Updated CDC Recommendations for the Management of Hepatitis B Virus–Infected Health-Care Providers and Students - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidelines:({

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr6103a1.htm>  
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**Responsible Office:** Office of Student Affairs

**Policy Contact:** Assistant Dean for Students

**Supersedes:** V3